

25X1A9a

# Bus-Riding Chaplain

William Sloane Coffin Jr.

IN his sermon last Sunday the Rev. William Sloane Coffin Jr. said a Christian must expect adversity and not seek the easy path. Yesterday he went more than half-way to meet adversity himself.

Leaving, for the moment, his pleasant job as chaplain of Yale University and his

Man  
in the  
News

comfortable yellow house beneath the New Haven elms, Mr. Coffin became a "Freedom Rider," chal-

lenging racial segregation in the south.

"I'm not surprised," an old friend said. "Bill Coffin believes you've got to be rugged and determined and expect to take hard knocks if you're going to do a Christian's work in the world."

At Yale, some of the older faculty members consider Mr. Coffin to be young (he is 36) and brash. "We expect him eventually to mellow," one critic said with a touch of acid. But even these critics see in the chaplain a man of talent and energy.

## Pianist and Athlete

Mr. Coffin is a skillful pianist, a vigorous athlete and an enthusiastic gardener. He is fluent in French and Russian; has served in the Army and the Central Intelligence Agency, and last summer led an "Operation Crossroads" team to Africa.

He and a group of fifteen American students, with African students helping, built a community center in Mamou, a town in the upland rain forest of Guinea. One day, the group had had an hour-and-a-half chat with Premier Sekou Toure, with Mr. Coffin interpreting into French.

Mr. Coffin was born on July 1, 1924. His father was a vice president of W. & J. Sloane, Inc., the Fifth Avenue furniture store, and president of the trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

## Student at Andover

Mr. Coffin studied at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., and at Yale, where he majored in government. In 1943 he joined the Army and served as a liaison officer, first with the French Army and after World War II with the Russian Army.

After the war he returned to Yale and was graduated in 1949.

He studied divinity at the Union Theological Seminary for a year, then spent three



Talent and energy

years during the Korean War working on Russian affairs for the C. I. A. He was graduated from Yale Divinity School in 1956 and was ordained in the Presbyterian ministry.

For a year he went back to Andover as chaplain, and it was there that he preached last Sunday's sermon. After a year as chaplain of Williams College, Mr. Coffin went back to Yale as university chaplain. There he is known as the athletic-looking, collegiate fellow who rides a motorscooter around the campus, puffing on an aluminum-stemmed pipe.

In the house with the big backyard at the corner of Wall and Temple Streets in New Haven are Mrs. Coffin, a former actress and dancer who appeared on Broadway as Mergot Frank in "The Diary of Anne Frank," a daughter, Amy, and two sons, Alexander Sloane and David Andrew.

Mrs. Coffin, incidentally, is the daughter of Arthur Rubinstein, the pianist. And there is a tale to illustrate Mr. Coffin's way of speaking his mind.

At the Lions Club luncheon in New Haven two weeks ago, Mr. Coffin was introduced as the man of whom his prospective father-in-law said, "I'm not sure I want a Billy Graham in the family."

"My answer to that," Mr. Coffin responded, "was to say—Well, I'm not sure I want a Liberace in mine."

CPYRGHT